

Message Text

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SUBJ: VISIT OF CNO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY TO ISRAEL 29-31 MAR 78

1. ADMIRAL JAMES L. HOLLOWAY III, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (CNO) VISITED ISRAEL MARCH 29-31 AS THE GUEST OF REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL J. BARKAI, COMMANDER IDF NAVY. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES NAVY HAS ALWAYS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS THE FRONT RUNNER IN MILITARY DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IT WAS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT THE FIRST MEMBER OF JCS TO VISIT ISRAEL SHOULD BE THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.

2. IN WELCOMING THE HOLLOWAYS, THE ISRAELI NAVY PREPARED A VERY COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS BOTH FOR ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY AND FOR MRS. HOLLOWAY. OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS FOR ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY CONSISTED OF AN IDF LUNCHEON WITH MOD EZER WEIZMAN, A MEETING WITH LTGEN GUR (COS IDF), INTELLIGENCE BRIEFINGS BY RADM BARKAI AND MGEN IVRY (COMMANDER IAF), AND A CALL ON THE US AMBASSADOR. SOCIAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDED AN IDF NAVY SPONSORED RECEPTION AND A COCKTAIL BUFFET AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN WHICH BOTH

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HIGH LEVEL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY DIGNITARIES HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE HOLLOWAYS. SIGHTSEEING EXCURSIONS INCLUDED HELO TRANSPORTATION FOR ADMIRAL & MRS. HOLLOWAY TO JERUSALEM/BETHLEHEM ON THE FIRST DAY WITH A WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL THAT AFTERNOON. ON THE SECOND DAY, MRS. HOLLOWAY WAS GIVEN A SPECIAL HELO TOUR OF MASADA, NAZARETH, MR. TABOR, GALILEE, AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WHILE ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY

RECEIVED HONORS AT HAIFA NAVAL TRAINING BASE FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF AN IDF NAVY MISSILE BOAT AND SUBMARINE. IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY, ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY OBSERVED A QUOTE LIVE UNQUOTE FIRING OF A GABRIEL MISSILE IN THE STRAITS OF TIRAN FROM A SHARM EL SHEIKH BASED MISSILE BOAT.

3. MEETING WITH LTGEN GUR: LTGEN GUR RECEIVED ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY THE MORNING OF 31MAR78. MGEN EITAN (PROSPECTIVE COS IDF), MGEN GAZIT (DIRMILINTEL) CAPT POINDEXTER (CNO EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT), CDR CHAPMAN (CNO AIDE), AND ALUSNA WERE ALSO PRESENT. ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY COMMENTED MOST FAVORABLY ON COMSIXTHFLT SHIP VISITS TO ISRAEL AND HOW MUCH THE US NAVY APPRECIATED AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT ISRAEL. LTGEN GUR THEN DISCUSSED BRIEFLY HIS VIEWS ON HAVING A STRONG ISRAELI NAVY TO SUPPORT THE OVERALL IDF STRATEGY AND THE NAVY'S NEED FOR AN IMPROVED CAPABILITY TO DETECT AND DESTROY SEABORNE TERRORISTS.

4. MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH LTGEN GUR, ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR. IN THIS MEETING, CAPT POINDEXTER AND ALUSNA WERE ALSO PRESENT. ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY EXPRESSED HIS SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S SUPPORT FOR COMSIXTHFLT SHIP VISITS TO ISRAEL. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT HE APPRECIATED FULLY THE NEED FOR THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE US NAVY, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS, TO HAVE ACCESS TO GOOD PORTS AND THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US NAVY. THE DISCUSSION THEN CENTERED UPON THE FEASIBILITY/ DESIRABILITY OF HOMEPORTING OR REPAIRING USN SHIPS IN HAIFA/ ALEXANDRIA SHOULD THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRE SUCH US MILITARY PRESENCE IN THIS AREA. ANOTHER TOPIC ALSO DISCUSSED WAS THE NECESSITY OF THE IDF NAVY MAINTAINING A NAVAL BASE AT SHARM EL SHEIKH. THE MEETING, WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY FRANKNESS AND MUTUAL RESPECT, CLOSED ON AN EXTREMELY HIGH NOTE.

5. MEETING WITH RADM BARKAI AND MGEN IVRY. ON THE SAME MORNING, ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY WAS GIVEN COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFINGS ON THE ARAB AIR AND NAVAL THREAT BY BGEN EREZ (CHIEF IAF INTEL) AND CAPT LEVY (DIR IDF NAVY INTEL) IN A JOINT MEETING WITH RADM BARKAI AND MGEN IVRY. ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS MEETING WAS A FILM PRESENTATION OF IAF HELO OPS ABOARD AN IDF NAVY MISSILE BOAT.

6. LUNCHEON WITH MOD EZER WEIZMAN. COMPLETING THE ABOVE MEETING, ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY AND HIS OFFICIAL PARTY WERE HOSTED BY MOD EZER WEIZMAN AT SDE DOV IAF BASE IN TEL AVIV. THE OVERALL TONE OF THE LUNCHEON WAS ONE OF SINCERE HOSPITALITY AND FRIENDLINESS. TOP LEVEL ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS FLANKED THE TABLES TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY. MOD WEIZMAN,

WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM CAIRO, WAS IN TOP FORM AS HE SHARED SOME ANECDOTES AS A RESULT OF HIS RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. THE LUNCHEON WAS A HUGE SUCCESS IN THAT IT SHOWED ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY ISRAEL'S WARMTH AS A HOSPITABLE HOST.

7. HOSPITALITY. THE ISRAELIS, PARTICULARLY THE IDF NAVY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF RADM BARKAI, MADE EVERY EFFORT TO INSURE THAT ADMIRAL AND MRS. HOLLOWAY'S VISIT TO ISRAEL WOULD BE MOST ENJOYABLE AND PERSONALLY REWARDING FOR THEM. THE THEME THROUGHOUT THE TRIP WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND ENJOY THE HOLYLAND. THE SCHEDULE ACHIEVED THE RIGHT BALANCE OF SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPOSURE. AT EVERY OCCASION, THE ISRAELIS SHOWED THEMSELVES TO BE MOST GRACIOUS HOSTS.

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8. COMMENT. THE OVERALL EFFECT OF ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY'S VISIT TO ISRAEL CAN ACCURATELY BE JUDGED A TOTAL SUCCESS FOR THE US NAVY AS WELL AS FOR US-ISRAELI RELATIONS. ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY AND HIS LOVELY WIFE DABNEY CREATED A MOST POSITIVE IMPRESSION WITH THEIR ISRAELI HOSTS.
LEWIS

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